

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 10-15 are withdrawn from consideration.

Objections to the Drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a)

The Examiner objected to the drawings stating that the number of alarms, alarm identification numbers, and description of alarms must be shown. In FIG. 4, the Alarm Table is shown in step 416. Page 7, line 31, to page 8, line 3, of the application states that such Alarm Table designates the number of alarms that the process module will handle and provides alarm identification numbers and a description of each alarm. Therefore, these features of the Alarm Table are symbolically shown in FIG. 4. In addition, MPEP 601.01(f) states that "It has been USPTO practice to treat an application that contains at least one process or method claim as an application for which a drawing is not necessary for an understanding of the invention under 35 U.S.C. 113 (first sentence)." Claim 3 is a method claim, so that generally a drawing of the required features is not necessary. For at least these reasons, claim 3 is sufficiently shown by the drawings.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, stating that the limitation of "the number of alarms..." is not found in the specification.

Page 7, line 31, to page 8, line 3, of the application describes that an Alarm Table "designates the number of alarms that the process module will handle" and "provides alarm identification numbers and a description of each alarm." For at least this reason, claim 3 is enabled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,225,901 to Kail (Kail) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,233,492 to Nakamura (Nakamura) in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,233,492 to Sandelman et al.

Claim 1

Kail, Nakamura, and Sandelman do not teach or make obvious all elements of claim 1, even in combination. Specifically, Kail does not disclose transmitting a command to get a reportable specification to a sensor, or transmitting a reportable specification message from a sensor. Claim 1 specifically recites that the reportable specification message informs the process module computing system of the type of data that will be provided from the first sensor. The Examiner stated that col. 11, line 61-col. 12, line 19, of Sandelman states that "*At step S3, it is determined what type of error message has been received.*" teaches "a reportable specification which informs the process module computing system the type of data that will be provided from the first sensor." The citation by the Examiner does teach a reportable specification which informs the process module computing system the type of data that will be provided, but instead teaches the type of error message that has been received. In addition, the invention as recited in claim 1 has the computing system send a command to the sensor to request a reportable specification that informs the computing system the type of data that will be provided from the first sensor. In Sandelman, Server 1 determines what type of error message has been received. For these reasons, Sandelman does not disclose, teach, or suggest a reportable specification that informs the computing system the type of data that will be provided from the first sensor.

In addition, it would not be obvious to combine Kail, Nakamura, and Sandelman to obtain the invention, as recited in claim 1. *Ex parte Clapp* (227 USPQ 972) states that "To support the conclusion that the claimed combination is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed combination or the examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the reference." The Examiner failed to point out anything

in the references that expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed combination. Instead, the Examiner stated that a sensor can sense multiple types of information, but the system only needs one type from the sensor, the sensor can be designated as a specific type of sensor (i.e. only sense temperature) and that this could make for a faster system since it is not required for the sensor to constantly be reformatted for each different element it can sense. The type of error message in the cited part of Sandelman is not regarding what type of sensor data is provided, but instead indicates if the message is an exception message for immediate action, a unit checking in message, or an undefined message. The cited section of Sandelman does not teach the type of message discussed by the Examiner to justify combining the references to obtain the claimed invention. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is not made obvious by Kail in view of Nakamura and Sandelman.

The Examiner has rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kail in view of Nakamura in further view of Sandelman et al in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,510,350 to Steen, III et al. (Steen) in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,204,768 to Kosugi (Kosugi).

Claim 2

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and is therefore patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1. Additionally, Kail, Nakamura, Steen and Kosugi do not teach or suggest all elements of claim 2, even in combination. Specifically, Kosugi does not disclose transmitting an acknowledgement of a reportable specification message, which informs the process module computing system of the type of data that will be provided from the first sensor.

Kosugi teaches a fire monitoring system and fire sensor in which a receiver 100 is in communication with sensors 102 (Col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 2). Col. 8, lines 28-48, and col. 9, lines 18-29, of Kosugi, cited by the Examiner, does not teach that the receiver 100 transmits an acknowledgement of a reportable specification message to the sensors 102. In the cited section, the only acknowledgement signal transmitted to the sensors 102 is sent in the context of mode-switching, not an acknowledgement to reportable specifications that inform the process module

computing system of the type of data that will be provided from the first sensor. For at least these reasons, claim 2 is not made obvious by the cited references.

The Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kail in view of Nakamura in further view of Sandelman et al in further view of Steen in further view of Kosugi in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,425,006 to Chari et al. (Chari).

Claim 3

Claim 3 depends from claim 2, and is therefore patentable for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claims 1 and 2. Additionally, claim 3 recites that the alarm table designates the number of alarms, alarm identification numbers, and descriptions of the alarms. The Examiner cited col. 4, lines 23-38, of Chari as teaching this. The cited section of Chari teaches a log file which has a log of alerts that indicate information regarding alarms such as the number of an alarm, the date and time of the alarm, the source of the alarm and the category of alert. Such a log is not an alarm table that indicates the number of alarms, and descriptions of the alarms. The alarm table is a list indicating the number of alarms and an identification number for each alarm. Chari does not teach that the log provides both the number of alarms and alarm identification numbers, but only the number of an alarm (alarm identification number). Please note that the "number of alarms" (quantity of alarms) is different than "the number of an alarm" (alarm identification number). In addition, there is nothing in Chari that teaches or suggests sending such a log to a sensor. The Examiner provides justification for combining as allowing a user to view the alert log. However, this does not provide justification for sending the alarm log of Chari to the sensor, as recited in claim 3. For at least these reasons, claim 3 is not made obvious by Kail, Nakamura, Sandelman, Steen, Kosugi, and Chari.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kail in view of Nakamura in further view of Sandelman in further view of Steen in further view of Kosugi in further view of Chari in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,301,122 to Halpern (Halpern).

Claims 4-9

Claims 4-9 each depend either directly or indirectly from the dependent claim 3, and are therefore respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 3. Additionally, these dependent claims require additional elements that when taken in the context of the claimed invention, further patentably distinguish the art of record. For at least these reasons, claims 4-9 are not made obvious by Kail, Nakamura, Steen, Kosugi, Sandelman, Chari, and Halpern.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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